

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 STR-08 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /176 W

----- 066275

O R 251520Z APR 74 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7087

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0740

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, OVIP (EBERLE), BB

SUBJ: EBERLE MISSION: CARICOM SESSION

1. DURING APRIL 24 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, GOB TRADE MINISTER BRANFORD TAITT SAID GOB EXPECTED DUSCUSSIONS TO BE BROAD AND WIDE RANGING RATHER THAN IN DEPTH ON SPECIFIC TOPICS BECAUSE TIME AVAILABLE WAS LIMITED. HE DID EMPHASIZE THAT ALL CARICOM MEMBERS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN QUESTION OF REVERSE PREFERENCES AND HE DISCLOSED THAT CANADA HAD RECENTLY MADE DECISION TO EXTEND SUCH PREFERENCES TO CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. TAITT SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT U.S. CONGRESS HELD KEY TO PERMITTING EXTENSION OF PREFERENCES TO LDC'S BUT THAT IN VIEW OF TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE OF U.S. MARKET TO CARICOM AND OTHER

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CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, U.S. GOVERNMENT, IF IT WERE GENUINELY

INTERESTED IN HELPING LDC'S SHOULD EXERT STRONG EFFORT TO PERMIT PREFERENTIAL ACCESS. TAITT ADDED THAT STIMULATION OF EXPORTS TO U.S. WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO BARBADOS AND OTHERS AT THIS JUNCTURE.

2. TAITT SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO ACT AS MODERATOR DURING SATURDAY SESSION IN VIEW OF FACT THAT GOB WAS HOSTING THIS WEEK'S CARICOM TALKS.

3. TAITT ALSO SAID HE PLANNED LUNCHEON FOR EBERLE MISSION PRINCIPALS AND CARICOM GUESTS. (HIS STAFF HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS FUNCTION AT HOLIDAY INN).

4. EMBASSY HAS NOTIFIED BOTH TAITT AND GOB MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THAT WE WOULD SEEK TO ARRANGE CALL ON PM BY AMBASSADOR EBERLE IF PM SO DESIRED. TAITT THOUGHT PM WOULD PROBABLY NOT WANT TO MAKE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS IN VIEW OF BREVITY OF MISSION'S VISIT. AMBASSADOR DID EMPHAOTSIZE TO TAITT THAT SHE HAD INVITED PM TO RECEPTION HONORING AMBASSADOR EBERLE.

5. COMMENT: OUR CANADIAN COLLEAGUES HERE SAY THAT CANADA DID NOT REPEAT NOT OFFER EXTEND REVERSE PREFERENCES. CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION INFORMS US THAT GOC OFFERED TO EXTEND ITS GENERALIZED PREFERENCE SYSTEM (GPS) TO INTER ALIA CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES BY JULY 1, 1974, BUT THAT THIS SYSTEM DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INVOLVE PREFERENCES ABROAD FOR CANADIAN GOODS. INFORMAL OPINION OF OUR CANADIAN COLLEAGUES IS THAT CANADIAN GPS EXTENSION SHOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT CARIBBEAN ELIGIBILITY FOR U.S. GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.
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